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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application

Marc L. Aronson

Serial No. 10/008,933      Group Art Unit 2854

Filed November 9, 2001      Examiner: Evans Hence, Andrea

Entitled: LOCK FOR A HAND STAMPING DEVICE

Attorney Docket No. 20134-2

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Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15237

March 19, 2004

Mail Stop Issue Fee  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.312

Sir:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, paragraph 1 as follows:

Field of the invention: The present invention relates to a lock apparatus to control operation of a hand stamping device, and, more particularly, to such a lock apparatus embodying a construction ~~excess~~ limiting access to a stamp platen and preferably of a movement of a stamped platen to an operative position at a window opening for the platen in the hand stamping device.

Page 2, paragraph 2 as follows:

Description of the prior art: U S patent numbers 4,432,281 and 4,735,143 disclose the construction of two different stamping devices useful to apply ink impressions to a document. The platen bearing the indica to be imprinted is normally freely assessable to anyone having access to the stamping device. Thus, a platen a bearing notarial certification or bearing a resemblance of a signature of an individual are two examples of a need to prevent unauthorized use of a stamping device even in those instances where the stamping device becomes accessible. Sometimes the only deterrent to unauthorized use is the storage of a stamping device at a location that is only out of sight to the general public. However it may be insufficient to store the stamping device in a desk drawer or the like that is normally protected by a lock against unauthorized access to the contents of the drawer. The consequence of unauthorized use of the stamping device may be extreme and remain undetected or even wrongly assume to be authorized. Sometimes a ledger may be maintained to list all authorized usage which is useful only if there were a suspected fraudulent use of a stamping device. A need therefore ~~exist~~ exists for an apparatus to prevent the use of the stamping device independently use of the environment in which the stamping device resides.

Page 2, paragraph 2 as follows:

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide an apparatus to prevent unauthorized use of a hand stamping device by preventing access to proprietary indicia provided on a platen ~~irrespective~~ moveable to an ink medium.



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